



ASC History Newsletter

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THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY...

1781: Greene crosses the Yadkin with Kosciuszko's boats

1861: Texas secedes from the Union

1865: Possible peace is discussed at Hampton Road's conference

1917: US breaks diplomatic relations with Germany

1945: Yalta conference foreshadows the Cold War

1949: US rejects proposal for conference with Stalin

1951: UN condemns People's Republic of China for aggression

1964: Operation Plan 34A commences

1970: Antiwar protestors sue Dow Chemical

1994: Clinton ends Vietnam trade embargo

AMC Europe - 1982

Today the 405th AFSB, active as a MTOE brigade since 2008, is the unit responsible for all AMC activities in Europe. Before 2008 the brigade was called AFSB-Europe and before that as AMC Europe. In 2005 AMC Europe was the test bed for a "new" way of managing AMC operations in EUCOM. The AFSB Europe annual history for FY2005 noted: "Fifteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the name "AMC Europe" - suggesting a strictly administrative or tutelary function - had long since become at best inadequate and at worst misleading.. [Now] the commander of AMC Europe is responsible for the centralized command and control of all AMC activities in EUCOM.... It marked an unprecedented transition from a static AMC Forward organization..." The new change made AFSB-Europe responsible for the Logistics Assistance Program, depot and forward maintenance programs, TMDE and ADAP, APS, and all other AMC operations. This created a "single point of entry" in Europe to AMC support while eliminating stovepipes.

Except that the idea was anything but "new."

In July 1982 AMC-Europe was created with the mission of consolidating command and control of all AMC activities in Europe and becoming the "single focal point" for USAREUR to gain AMC support. Part of the reasoning for this change was that a spate of new equipment fielding and the increase of AMC assets in

Europe had created "a mission unprecedented in the history of AMC." The plan placed all AMC activities in Europe— to include the depots, science and technology teams, fielding teams, and LAOs— under the control of AMC Europe. LAOs were under the command of AMC Europe and other elements, such as the commodity command senior representatives, were OPCON or attached. Those elements OPCON were directed by AMC to work in support of AMC Europe while keeping open the technical and funding streams from the parent command in CONUS. In order to eliminate stovepipes, only AMC Europe was to coordinate with USAREUR. The new command was also to be the focal point for planning contingency operations, facility management, and coordination for all new equipment fieldings.

From the records available it appears that the early life of AMC Europe was one of struggle between the forward element and the parent commands in CONUS. In 1982 and 1984 AMC issued letters to the CG, AMC Europe reminding them that they had the authority to direct all AMC elements. However, in 1985 AMC denied a request to integrate the LAO Europe TDA with the AMC Europe document. In 1987 CG AMC issued instructions that the CG AMC Europe would be in the rating chain of all AMC elements in theater. Finally, in 1988 then BG Laposada was directed to take command and either fix the organizational issues or close down the unit. LTG Laposada stated that he

shifted the focus from internal structure to the readiness of the Army in Europe and overcame much resistance. However, by 1991 AMC Europe was reduced to a Colonel command and AMC in Europe was fractured, and would become more fractured when the war reserve mission shifted to AMC in 1993/94. In the end, AMC Europe continued to provide an interface with USAREUR and managed the LAP program, but most of the other AMC elements in Europe operated relatively independently. The 2005 creation of AFSB Europe was an update of an old idea that has been more successful than the 1980s version in focusing AMC support in Europe.



NOTE: AMC was called DARCOM from 1976-1984. AMC-E was est in Seckenheim Germany

Trading Post at Rock Island

As early as 1795, the U.S. Government devised a plan to reduce the presence of private traders among the Indians of the Mississippi River Valley. The federal government established a system of government trading factories and trading posts in the Northwest. These government owned and operated trading houses made the Indians more economically dependent upon the United States, and by doing so, diminished the influence of foreign traders upon them. The government intended the trading factories to also provide the Indians with a more equitable deal than they had been receiving from private traders, especially the unscrupulous ones.

Unfortunately, the government trading factories were ineffective and too costly to maintain. They had higher overhead prices than the private traders, which may account for the fact that the government prices were usually higher than those of the private trader. The Indians con-

tinued, to trade with foreign agents and private American traders, though ostensibly under government control.

At the factories or trading posts furs were sorted as to grade and quality and treated and pressed into bales in preparation for shipment.



Trading houses shipped pelts and skins of deer, bear, beaver, otter, raccoon, and muskrat down river to St. Louis. During the winter season of 1819, the Sauk and Fox Indians supplied five traders 980 packs of peltries. The estimated value of the fur was cited at \$58,000 dollars.

Although mostly only marginally successful, some men were very

successful in the trading business. The one at Rock Island, for example, did very well. In fact, the business here was so good that the post sutler, George Davenport, became quite wealthy. In 1818, Davenport quit his post sutler position and devoted his time entirely to his Indian trade business. In addition to his store on Rock Island, Davenport established several other trading posts in the area. In 1822, George Davenport expanded his trading operations with various tribes of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. He established a trading post near Galena, Illinois and also set up trading houses near Burlington, Iowa, at the mouth of the Iowa River, on the Wapsipinicon River, and on the Maquoketa River. He also included three trading posts along the Rock River in Illinois in his operations. His success allowed him to gain land and prestige in the area.